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Bangalore Mirror

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WATER BODY BREAKDOWN

Pollution Control Board's report shows 172 of 187 lakes studied in Karnataka, most of which are in B'luru, have unacceptable water quality

PAGE 4

EXTRA ON THE SIDE

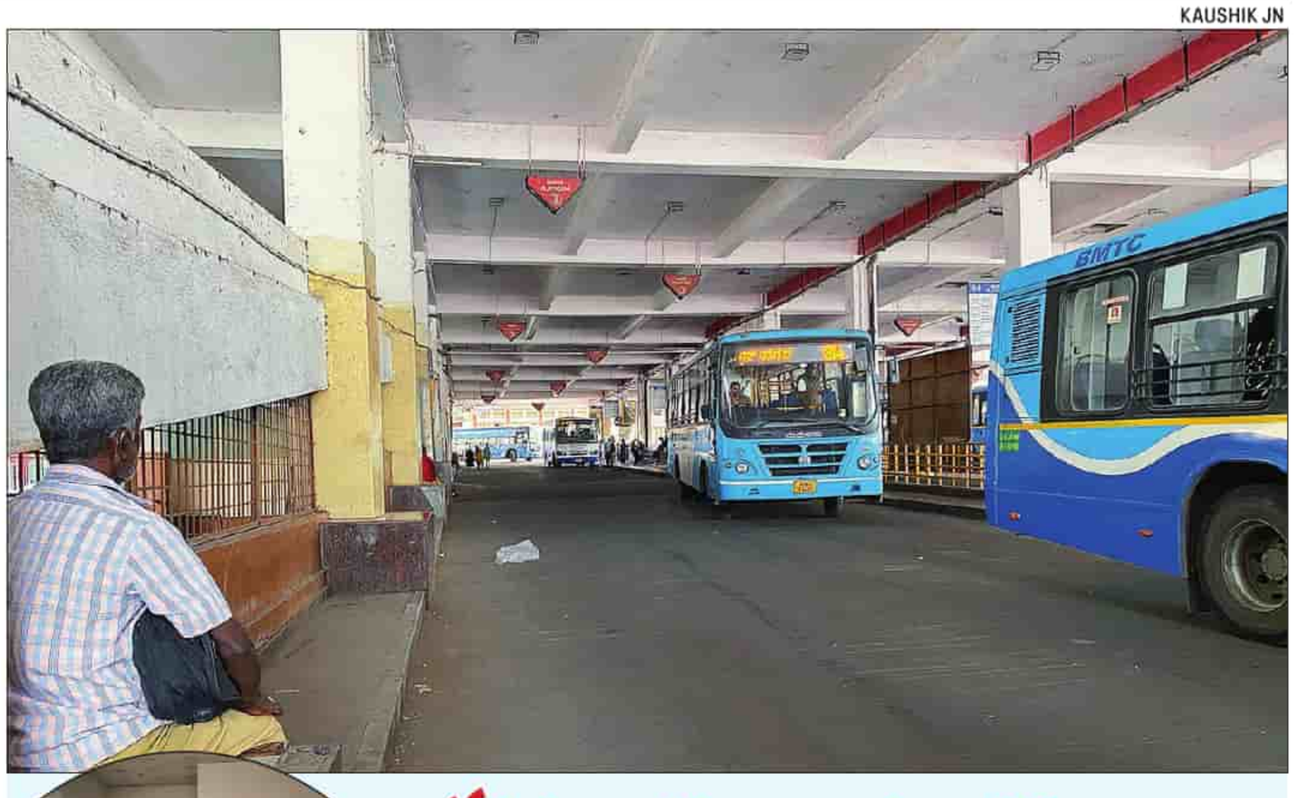
Farmer leaders allege that APMC markets are collecting 8% commission from them, despite regulations prohibiting such charges

PAGE 6

No electricity supply, unclean sinks, feeding room without seating — shape of Mother's Lounge in Shivajinagar Bus Station indicates facility is completely forgotten

SEEMS LIKE NOBODY BOTHERS ABOUT LOUNGE FOR MOTHERS

KAUSHIK JN



Commuters urge BMTC to ensure maintenance of crucial facility at all bus stations in city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Mother's Lounge at Shivajinagar Bus Station is in such a sad shape that if authorities concerned don't fix it right now, it will soon be rendered completely useless. Going by the pathetic condition of the Mother's Lounge, it already is unusable. Seems like the authorities concerned, who evinced a lot of interest in inaugurating this facility, have forgotten about its existence. Women commuters have urged the authorities to provide the Mother's Lounge at least with the basic amenities.

The Mother's Lounge is supposed to provide mothers and children with comfort and privacy at the public place. It has a feeding room for the benefit of mothers who want to feed their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

"I do not know when this lounge was last cleaned. I have to think twice even to enter the lounge due to the unhygienic atmosphere. The sinks are dirty too

— Varalakshmi N, a commuter

Too young to tie the knot

Crackdown on child marriages this Akshaya Tritiya

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While most people mark Akshaya Tritiya by buying gold and beginning new ventures, for the Bengaluru Urban District Administration, the day holds a far deeper significance. This year, April 30 won't just be celebrated for prosperity — it will be remembered for protection. In a proactive step, the administration is turning its focus toward curbing child marriages, a silent social issue that often spikes during large-scale religious and cultural celebrations.

Despite progress, child marriages continue to rise in the State. According to recent data shared by the Minister for Women and Child Development, between 2021-22 and 2023-24, the annual numbers were 418 cases in 2021-22, 328 in 2022-23, and a sharp increase to 719 in 2023-24.

Recognising the increased risk of underage weddings on this auspicious day—when mass and individual marriage ceremonies are commonly held—Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesh has issued strict directives to all relevant authorities to ensure that no child marriage slips through unnoticed. By treating the day not

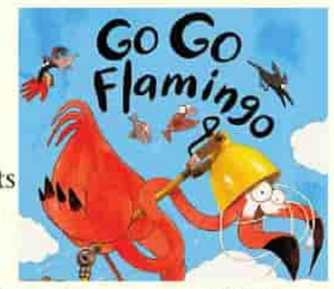
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Canvas chronicles

National Gallery of Modern Art is inaugurating an in-house curated exhibition 'Journeying the life experience through art: Amitabh Sengupta's Odyssey of six decades'. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: April 25, 5 pm**

02 Book bliss



Tulika Books is organising the launch of the book 'Go Go Flamingo!', which paints a telling picture of the violence unthinking humans inflict on the natural world through hazardous waste. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 26, 2.30 pm**

03 Playful twist

Svasti Art Foundation is presenting 'When Gods Party…!', a dance theatre production featuring a playful and lighthearted celebration of gods. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: April 25, 6.15 pm**

04 Musical tribute

Kishan Baalaji Collective is performing a tribute to Pink Floyd, bringing to life iconic hits and blending classic rock nostalgia with a unique artistic touch. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: April 26, 7 pm**

05 Divine art

Chiguru Nrithyalaya is presenting a Bharatanatyam performance to bring to life the divine essence and multifaceted nature of Lord Ayyappa. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Sampangi Rama Nagar; When: April 27, 6 pm**

Private colleges to submit fee hike proposal soon

Once colleges submit recommended fee details, Fee Regulatory Committee is going to evaluate and suggest suitable fee structure to government

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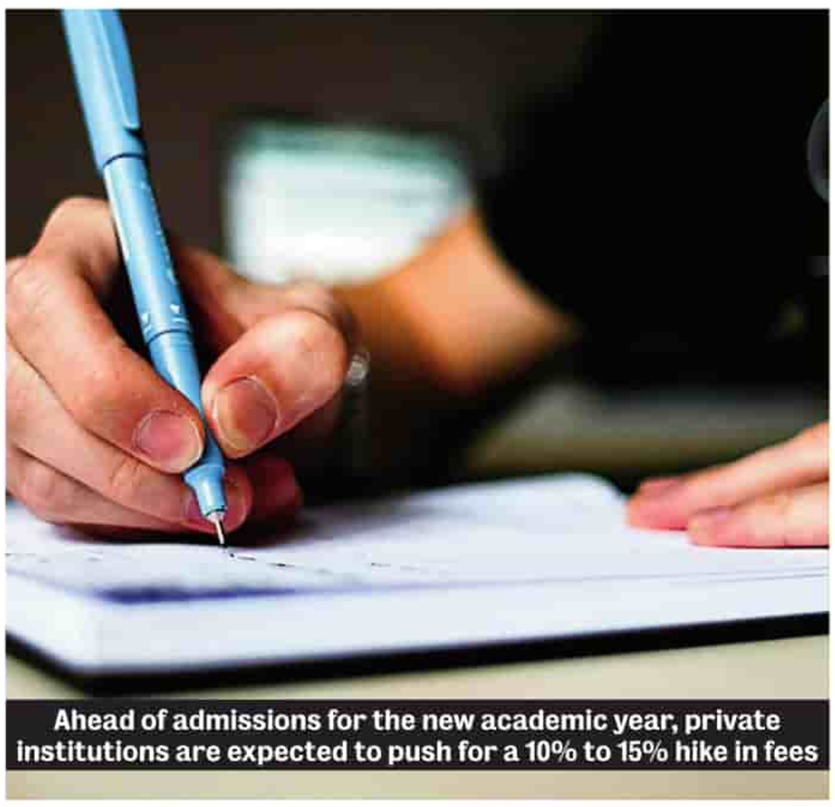

Ahead of admissions for the new academic year, private institutions are expected to push for a 10% to 15% hike in fees

The Common Entrance Test (CET) for professional courses in Karnataka has concluded, and the admission process is set to begin soon. Meanwhile, private colleges are preparing to submit proposals for fee hikes, and doubt looms over whether the Fee Regulatory Committee will have the final say in deciding the fee structure this year.

Traditionally, the Department of Higher Education obtains proposed fee details from colleges through the Fee Regulatory Committee. However, in recent years, fee hikes have often been finalised at the last minute through direct agreements between the government and private colleges. This year too, private institutions are pushing for a 10% to 15% hike in fees even as the committee begins its review process. Both the Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA) and the Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation (KPCF) have expressed intentions to formally submit their hike demands soon.

Deadline set for fee proposals

Sources said that as per the Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Determination of Fee) Act, 2006, the Fee Regulatory Committee had set a deadline in January for colleges to submit fee proposals for the academic years 2025–26, 2026–27, and 2027–28, for engineering, architecture, medical, dental, and AYUSH courses.

"Colleges were required to provide detailed documentation, including audited financial statements, course-wise cost breakdowns, proposed fee structures, infrastructure expenses, standard operational guidelines, staff salaries, promotions, academic resources, administrative overheads, and maintenance of buildings and equipment. A dedicated format was sent to colleges for this purpose," an official said.

However, many institutions failed to meet the January deadline. Once colleges submit their proposed fee details, the committee will evaluate and recommend a suitable fee structure to the government. Implementation will depend on government approval.

Fee Committee report ignored in 2018

A similar situation unfolded in 2018, when the government appointed retired Justice DV Shailendra Kumar as the head of the Fee Regulatory Committee.

> **"In practice, the committee's recommendations often serve as a formality, while the actual fee structure is finalised through separate agreements between the government and private college consortiums**
> — Sateesh Kumar, a student

The committee submitted a report recommending an 8% hike, including a fee of Rs 6.32 lakh for medical seats in deemed and private universities. The government did not accept the report. Instead, it signed a consensual agreement with private college associations at the last minute, bypassing the committee's recommendations and allowing a separate fee hike.

Regulatory role in question

Sateesh Kumar, a student, said that the recurring trend raises concerns over the relevance of the Fee Regulatory Committee. "In practice, the committee's recommendations often serve as a formality, while the actual fee structure is finalised through separate agreements between the government and private college consortiums. As a result, the fees decided in these agreements are the ones ultimately enforced," he said.

Government urges increase in medical seats for NEET aspirants

Expressing concern over the widening gap between the number of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirants and available medical seats, the Karnataka government, on Wednesday, urged the National Medical Commission (NMC) to significantly increase undergraduate medical seats across the country.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 2019 batch of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (SABVMC), Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil, said that over five lakh students appear for the NEET examination every year, but only around one lakh medical seats are available.

"This disparity needs immediate attention. The doctors we train in India are not just for our country, but for the world," he said, pointing to the rigorous training and high demand for Indian medical professionals globally. According to Patil, a formal proposal has already been sent to the NMC seeking approval for an additional 800 undergraduate and 600 postgraduate medical seats in Karnataka starting this academic year. "There is a stark mismatch between demand and availability. The NMC must intervene," he said, addressing NMC chairperson Dr B N Gangadhara, who was present at the event.

Reiterating the state's commitment to expanding healthcare infrastructure, the minister emphasised the government's plan to establish a medical college in every district. "Each of these colleges will be equipped with a hospital, and we aim to set up cancer care units, trauma centres, and super-specialty hospitals in every district," he said. He said the Chief Minister has approved the initiative, ensuring that fully equipped medical colleges are established in districts without institutions, enabling deserving students from economically weaker sections to pursue medicine at government expense.

NMC Chairperson Dr Gangadhara highlighted the global shortage of nearly three crore doctors in his address, urging the younger generation to pursue medical careers to bridge the gap. "Indian doctors are in great demand worldwide, thanks to their strong academic foundation and English proficiency. One of NMC's key goals is to produce globally recognised medical professionals," he said.

– PTI

United voices Members of the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Vasati Nilaya Karmikara Sangha (Karnataka State United Hostel Workers' Association), supported by AIUTUC, staged a protest at Freedom Park on Wednesday, demanding abolition of the outsourcing system, implementation of minimum wage, and fulfilment of other demands

Authorities flag quality lapses at warehouse

Over 17,000 uncertified products worth ₹2.5 crore seized for flouting norms from warehouse; items include gadgets, toys, footwear, cables

(File photo) Seized items misused ISI mark or lacked BIS licenses

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In a significant enforcement move, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Tuesday conducted a search and seizure operation at the largest warehouse in South India operated by Instakart Services Private Limited, which runs under the Flipkart brand.

According to an official release, the operation uncovered large-scale violations of the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the Government of India and the provisions under the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) Act, 2016. Several products stored and allegedly sold from the facility were found to be non-compliant with mandatory certification norms.

The BIS team, led by Narender Reddy Beesu (Director) along with Vinodini Kishore (Director), Premlata Sinha (Joint Director), and Piyush Kumar Gupta (Assistant Director), seized approximately 17,500 units across 104 product varieties, including wireless earbuds, Bluetooth earphones, speakers, toys, footwear, and electrical cables. The estimated market value of the seized goods is pegged at ₹2.5 crore.

Investigators found that many of the seized items either misused the ISI mark and Registration mark or were sold without valid BIS licenses, in direct contravention of the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) and other mandatory certification requirements. The BIS emphasised that such violations can potentially expose consumers to unsafe and substandard products.

Under the BIS Act, 2016, such offences can attract legal action under Section 17(3) read with Section 29, which provides for imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of not less than ₹2 lakh for the first offence. Repeat violations can incur fines up to ₹5 lakh, or even ten times the value of the seized goods, or both.

During the operation, BIS officials also took steps to educate warehouse staff on checking product compliance and ensuring that only certified goods are allowed into storage and distribution channels.

Consumers have been urged to verify BIS Standard Marks (ISI marks) and license numbers before purchasing products. These can be cross-checked through the BIS CARE mobile app.

Gold glitters bright this Akshaya Tritiya

Gold and silver continue to shine bright in India's festive and wedding seasons, as industry leaders project global highs and sustained buyer interest. With Akshaya Tritiya around the corner and the wedding season in full swing, gold prices have reached record highs — ₹10,000 per gram for 24K and ₹9,290 per gram for 22K gold. According to Rajesh Rokde, Chairman of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), this sharp upward trend reflects a bullish global market driven by robust investment demand and significant government interest.

"While there have been brief corrections and instances of profit booking, the overall momentum remains strong," said Rokde. He noted that India's gold imports surged to 802 tonnes in 2024, up from 741 tonnes in 2023, indicating consistent market activity despite price volatility. Jewellers are actively engaging customers with seasonal promotions, especially in the lead-up to Akshaya Tritiya, traditionally seen as the most auspicious time for gold purchases. "This is a golden opportunity for buyers to make secure investments before prices climb further," he added.

Echoing this optimism, Avinash Gupta, Vice Chairman of GJC, highlighted that the parabolic movement of gold could push international prices to $3,800–$3,900, surpassing his earlier forecast of $3,500 by the end of April. "Indian consumers continue to support the jewellery ecosystem with resilient demand, even amid escalating prices," Gupta observed. He also pointed out a shift in investment strategy, with portfolio managers now recommending a 15–20% allocation to gold, thanks to its consistent returns.

Silver, too, is gaining prominence among budget-conscious buyers. "Silver jewellery is becoming increasingly popular for its aesthetics and affordability, often rivalling gold in design quality," Gupta said.

Metro bans tobacco, ups checks & fines

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will start fining passengers who consume chewable tobacco products in metro stations and trains.

The move follows public complaints about spitting and littering caused by the use of such products. To monitor these activities, BMRCL will increase patrolling during non-peak hours.

As metal detectors cannot detect these items, random physical checks will be carried out at all metro stations. Security staff have been instructed to watch for such behaviour, and the central surveillance team will inform platform guards if any violations are seen. BMRCL will also run campaigns to inform passengers about the rule. The metro authority has asked commuters to follow the guidelines and help keep metro spaces clean, according to a release.

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City's dying lakes need immediate restoration

Over 90% of Karnataka's lakes fail standards, most in Bengaluru face neglect

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A dried-up lake in the city, symbolising the growing water crisis and the urgent need for restoration efforts

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has yet again highlighted the miserable state of Bengaluru's water bodies. In a report filed with the National Green Tribunal on April 16, the Board highlighted that over 90% of the water bodies in Karnataka, with the majority located in Bengaluru, are in a state of neglect and fail to meet the standards prescribed by the Board. According to the report, 172 out of 187 lakes studied have unacceptable water quality. The CPCB has also emphasised that the current state of affairs has been communicated to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), urging them to identify the sources of pollution and make a coordinated effort to improve the situation.

"The CPCB has analysed the water quality of lakes, tanks, and ponds in Karnataka, as monitored under the National Water Quality Monitoring Program (NWNMP) by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). It has also requested KSPCB to identify the sources of pollution, particularly at the non-complying stations, and to take necessary steps to improve water quality," stated the CPCB in its report.

The CPCB filed the report after the NGT took sue motu cognisance of the issue, following an article published in the Bangalore Mirror on March 2, 2024. The article highlighted the neglect of Bengaluru's water bodies as a key factor contributing to the water shortages the city has been facing during the summer in recent years.

The article highlighted an unprecedented water crisis in Bengaluru, with 257 potential water-stressed areas identified by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) last year. It also underscored the issue of illegal encroachments on water bodies, which negatively impact the groundwater table, leading to reduced water availability.

172 of 187 lakes studied have unacceptable water quality; Board says matter conveyed to State authority

Notably, in 2019, the CPCB issued guidelines for the restoration of water bodies. According to these guidelines, action plans were to be prepared and submitted to the CPCB for approval. To implement the action plan, the state government was required to establish a monitoring committee, chaired by the Principal Secretary (Environment) of the State. The committee was tasked with reviewing the progress of the action plans at least once every three months and reporting to the Chief Secretary of the State. Additionally, a model lake restoration technique was provided for the restoration of ponds and lakes.

"Karnataka has designated the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority as the nodal agency for the restoration of stagnant water bodies. It is the state's responsibility to ensure the timely restoration of lakes and ponds, as well as compliance with the NGT order," stated the CPCB in its report.

Decade-long dream turns green in Rajajinagar

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Housing Board Colony and Kamakshi Palya are very happy for finally having a lung space in their locality. They want to be grateful to their elected representative and local politicians and volunteers for their contribution and cooperation to realise their long-pending dream of having a park. They have struggled a lot for more than a decade to realise their dream of having a park for all age groups.

According to Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, there was a long-standing dispute between two groups of residents—one group wanted a playground, while the other preferred a park. "I tried to accommodate both—a playground and a park—but the available land was not sufficient," he explained. "In 2008, a few residents approached the High Court, which, in April 2022, directed the authorities to use the land exclusively for developing a park. I am happy that we can now create a mini forest on this site. This will be the second mini forest in my constituency," said MLA Suresh Kumar.

Residents said that certain individuals with vested interests had tried to prevent the development of a park on the land. They recalled an incident on January 13, 2019, when miscreants damaged hundreds of saplings planted by a group of environmentalists. The residents expressed their gratitude to Anil Ranganna and his friends for helping to douse a fire that broke out. "We rushed to the spot along with Anil Ranganna to put out the fire," said A. Srinivas, a volunteer.

Residents said that MLA Suresh Kumar and former Deputy Mayor K. Ranganna performed a pooja for the development of the mini forest on the land on February 5, 2023. The park was officially opened to the public last Sunday, on April 20, 2025.

Residents are pleased with the range of facilities available at the park. They noted that around 50 varieties of saplings have been planted. The park features an open-air gym, a children's play area, a walking path, benches, and toilets. "I want to thank all those responsible for the development of this park. I visit this park for a walk in the morning and evening," said Shivanand Umadi, a resident of Housing Board Colony.

Residents and volunteers inspect the newly developed green space, a result of years of community effort and persistence

Expressing the similar opinion, Jogaiah S, a resident, said the park has all facilities and is suitable for all age groups. "I am very happy to visit this park. It has become a destination for hundreds of people, including children and senior citizens," said Jogaiah.

Meanwhile, a resident said the BBMP authorities should take measures to preserve the park developed with taxpayers' money.

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Drainage mess

Kammagondanahalli

Open and broken drains in Kammagondanahalli have become a serious safety threat, endangering both residents and pedestrians as they navigate daily through the affected areas.

Hawker hassle

VV Puram

The footpath near VV Puram College Junction on KR Road is heavily encroached by hawkers, leaving little space for pedestrians and calling for immediate intervention from civic authorities.

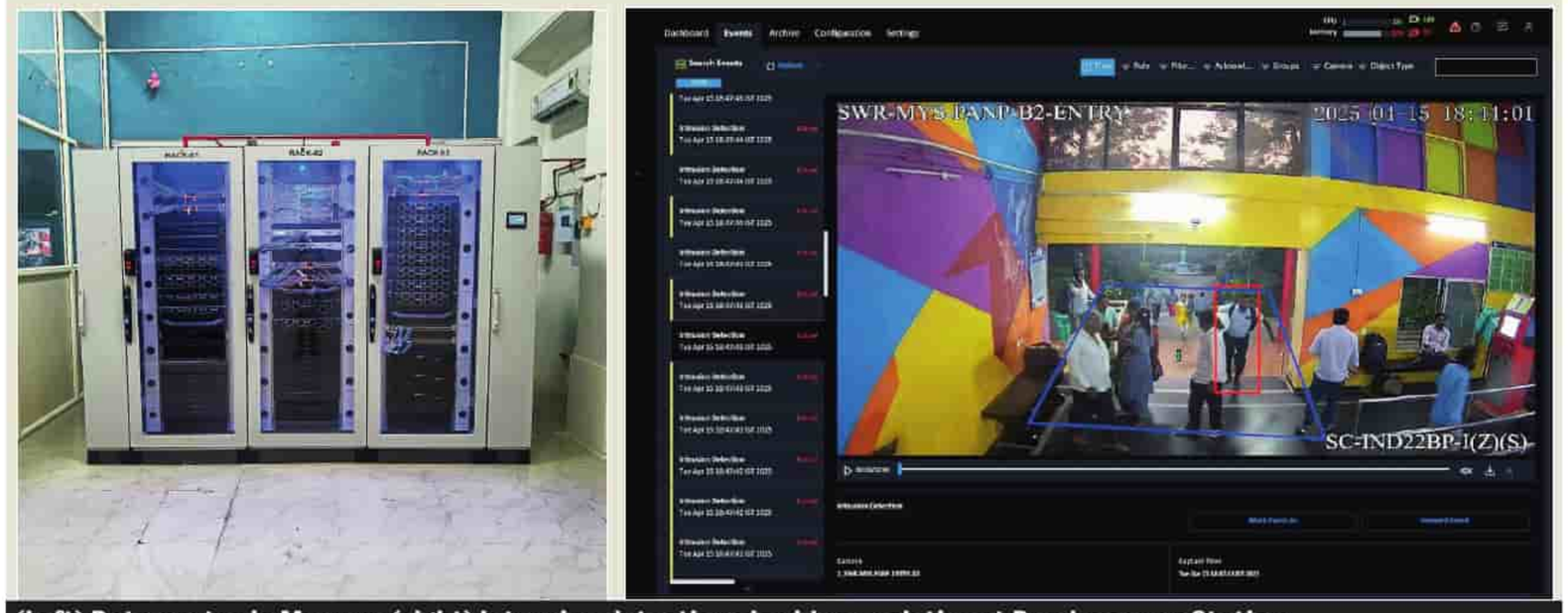
Street struggle

Jayanagar

Uneven stumbling blocks on the footpath near Jayanagar 5th Block signal, at the intersection of Aurobindo Marg and the Ring Road, are creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians and need prompt civic attention.

AI cameras and smart tech to transform rail security

South Western Railway unveils ₹55-crore AI-powered surveillance system, integrating voice, video, and data services to enhance efficiency and safety at 228 stations



(Left) Data centre in Mysuru; (right) Intrusion detection via video analytics at Pandavapura Station

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In a 'first-of-its-kind' initiative for Indian Railways, the South Western Railway (SWR) has initiated the installation of a state-of-the-art Converged Communication System (CCS), becoming the first zone in the country to adopt such advanced technology. The 55-crore project is set to transform railway operations by integrating voice, video, and data services into a unified, secure communication platform.

According to SWR officials, the CCS will enhance real-time communication between stations, trains, and control centres, strengthening both operational efficiency and security. A key component of the project is the rollout of an AI-powered Video Surveillance System (VSS) across 228 railway stations.

The CCS is being phased out in favour of a more advanced framework that addresses the limitations of the Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH), such as high latency, slow restoration times, poor scalability, and limited flexibility. The new architecture offers improved scalability and flexibility, supporting dynamic routing and efficient bandwidth utilisation, key requirements for today's evolving communication needs.

2,784 cameras installed

Across the 288 railway stations, 14 A and B category stations are being equipped under the Nirbhaya Fund for women's safety, while the remaining 214 are funded through capital expenditure. The surveillance system includes 2,784 high-definition cameras, ranging from Full HD and 4K Ultra HD cameras to Pan-Tilt Zoom units, installed at strategic points within stations.

A senior railway official highlighted that the newly deployed AI-enabled CCTV cameras are equipped with cutting-edge features like Face Recognition, Video Analytics, and a centralised Video Management System, with all video feeds being closely monitored through Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) at both divisional and zonal levels. These smart surveillance systems can detect loitering behaviour, identify suspicious movements, recognise individuals based on specific clothing, such as red shirts and even alert authorities if someone has fallen. "These capabilities mark a significant step forward in ensuring passenger safety and operational efficiency," the official said.

This upgrade is part of a broader shift from traditional circuit-switched systems to modern packet-switched infrastructure, allowing the smooth integration of key railway applications such as the Passenger Reservation System (PRS), Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), e-Office, and Integrated Payroll and Accounting System (IPAS).

> **"AI-enabled CCTV cameras with face recognition will monitor stations, detecting suspicious behaviour, while alerting authorities in case of emergencies for action**

The Mysuru Division has already achieved full deployment, with CCTV systems operational at 31 stations. It has also established both a Divisional Network Operations Centre (NOC) and the ICCC. Additionally, a VoIP-based Train Control Communication System (TCCS) is now live at 71 stations within the division.

Security audits have been successfully carried out at key locations including Mysuru, Pandavapura, and Mandya. According to sources, the full rollout of the CCS across the entire zone is targeted for completion by September 2025.

Farmer shot during clash over quarry road construction

A 38-year-old farmer was injured in a firing incident in Manchehalli village on Wednesday during a dispute over a road construction related to a stone quarry operation.

The incident occurred when a group of villagers, including members of the Manchehalli Environment Protection Committee, protested against the construction of a road meant for transporting quarry stones. The protesters alleged that the road would worsen air and water pollution and impact their crops and livestock due to heavy dust and vehicle movement.

Two days earlier, both parties, local farmers and the quarry owner, were called to a peace meeting at the local police station, where officials advised them to seek legal resolution through the courts.

However, tensions reignited when Saklesh S, the quarry owner, arrived at the site on Wednesday with supporters and JCBs to begin road work, reportedly without police knowledge. As villagers gathered in opposition, a heated argument broke out. During the chaos, Saklesh was allegedly injured by stone-pelting and, in retaliation, pulled out his licensed revolver.

He reportedly fired four rounds, one of which struck Ravikumar, a local farmer, in the leg. Ravikumar collapsed on the spot and was rushed to the hospital. Saklesh fled the scene and later admitted himself to a hospital.

Speaking to BM, Superintendent of Police Kushal Chowksey said, "Just two days ago, we held a meeting with both parties and advised them to resolve the issue legally through the court. However, the quarry operators proceeded with JCBs without informing us. When villagers opposed, it escalated into an argument, and the accused opened fire. Four rounds were fired, one of which injured the farmer, Ravi." The Chikkaballapur Rural Police responded and arrested Saklesh. —BMB

HC blocks action in Rai case

The Karnataka High Court issued a directive preventing police action against Anuradha, the second spouse of deceased former underworld figure N Muthappa Rai, provided she assists with the investigation regarding the shooting incident involving Rikki Rai, Muthappa Rai's son from his first marriage.

The Court instructed the police to conduct their investigation legally, whilst ensuring they do not summon her without following proper legal procedures.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar delivered the interim ruling on the petition submitted by. Anuradha, who is listed as the second accused in the FIR registered following a complaint by Rikki Rai's driver, Basavaraju G.

Anuradha's petition contends that the shooting incident complaint lacks sufficient grounds to warrant any charges against her or to include her as an accused party.

The petition further states that her previous disputes with Rikki Rai and his sibling were civil matters, which were resolved through a mutually agreed settlement in a Bengaluru civil court during October-December 2024.

She maintains that her inclusion in the complaint is purely targeted harassment, noting that she has been travelling in Europe since April 14 on a holiday with her daughter from her previous marriage. —BMB

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REGISTRAR

Farmers forced to pay up to 10% to sell produce

Farmers allege collusion, weight tampering, and illegal fees despite government regulations

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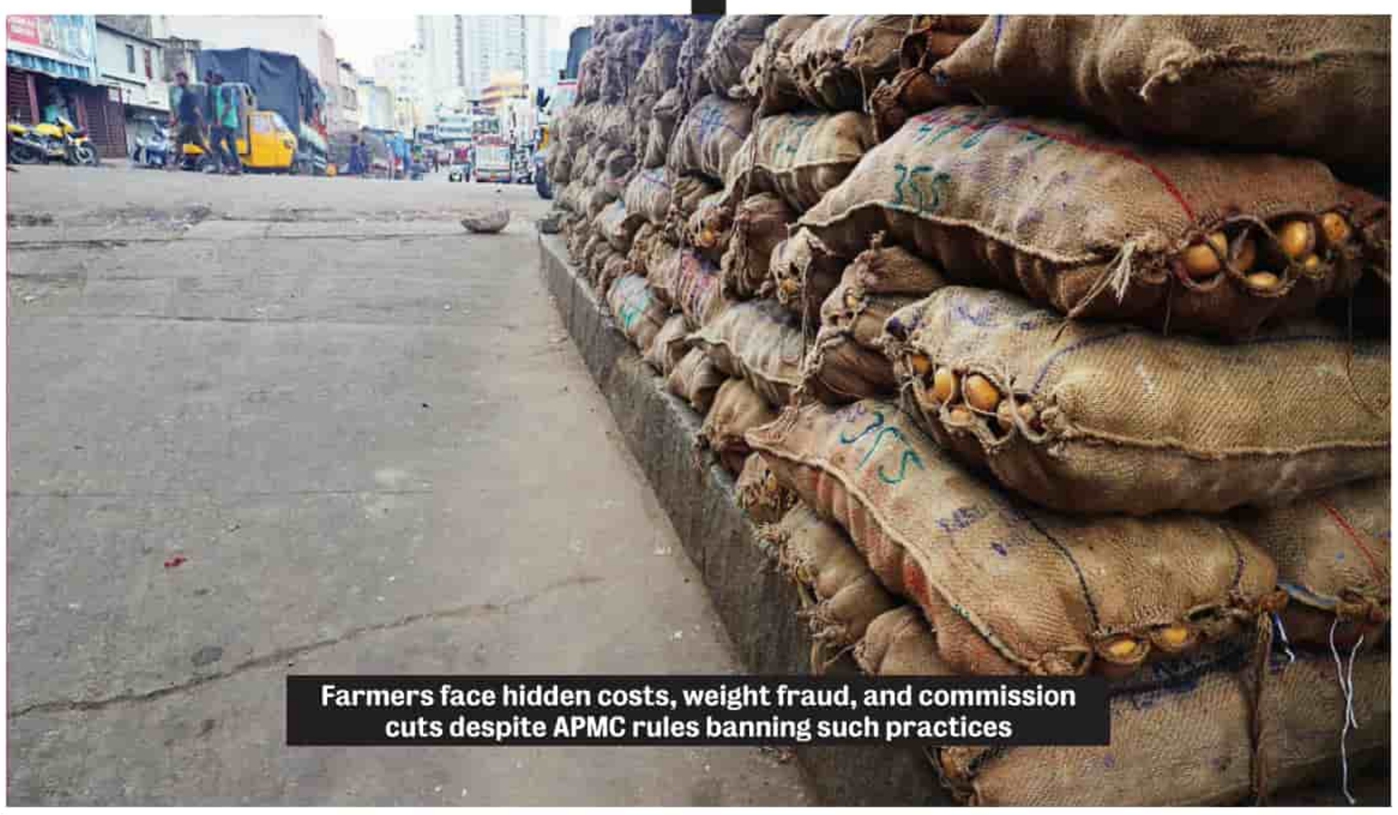

Farmers face hidden costs, weight fraud, and commission cuts despite APMC rules banning such practices

Farmers are once again being forced to pay a commission ranging from 8% to 10% to sell their agricultural products in Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs). Without this payment, they are unable to sell fruits, vegetables, and other food grains. Farmer leaders allege that most APMC markets are silently collecting an 8% commission from farmers, despite regulations prohibiting such charges. They claim that APMC officials have colluded with middlemen in this illegal practice, leaving farmers especially those travelling from distant areas vulnerable to exploitation.

In addition to high input costs like wages and transportation, farmers say they are being short changed in weight as well. "At least 3 to 4 kilograms of produce are deducted from each sack, and we are paid only for the remaining quantity," one farmer leader said.

Although APMC rules clearly state that no fees should be levied for market entry, farmers assert that this rule is rarely enforced. They allege that officials are misusing their authority, charging commissions under the guise of trader fees.

According to APMC officials, licensed agents are supposed to collect a 2% commission on grains and 5% on fruits and vegetables—from traders, not farmers. Yet on the ground, it's the farmers who end up paying. Despite the APMC system being in place since 1907, aimed at protecting farmers and ensuring fair trade, the reality remains grim. Farmers say that even when complaints are raised, no action is taken. Najeebullah Khan, Additional Director of the APMC, reiterated that farmers should not be charged any fees once inside the market. However, the alleged exploitation continues.

Farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekhar voiced his frustration, stating that farmers are still being treated unfairly, despite regulations meant to safeguard their interests.

> **"Most APMC markets are quietly collecting an 8% commission from farmers. Officials have colluded with middlemen in this illegal activity**
> – Farmer leaders

22 kids reach back home in Meghalaya

Twenty-two children from Meghalaya studying in an illegal private boarding school in Karnataka were handed over to their parents here on Wednesday, an official said.

The children had been enrolled in the unregistered boarding school where, on March 16, a food poisoning incident claimed the lives of two students. Following the tragedy, the remaining children were shifted to a government-run children's home.

Parents of the affected children approached the court seeking their return. Acting on the court's directive, authorities ensured the children were safely reunited with their families in Meghalaya.

Accompanied by a Child Welfare Officer from Karnataka, the children were received by their counterpart in Meghalaya, who verified the identities of the parents before formally handing over the children.

Meghalaya Social Welfare Minister Paul Lyngdoh was present during the emotional handover ceremony.

Of the 22 children, eight were from East Jaintia Hills, seven from West Jaintia Hills, four from East Khasi Hills, and three from West Khasi Hills, the official added.

— BMB

IAF officer booked, govt backs Kannadiga victim

An FIR has been registered against a 40-year-old Indian Air Force officer on charges of attempt to murder, criminal intimidation, and voluntarily causing hurt, based on a counter-complaint filed by 26-year-old Vikas Kumar, a call centre employee. Kumar had earlier been arrested following a complaint by the officer regarding a road rage incident in Bengaluru's Nagavarapalya area.

Taking to social media platform X, Shivakumar shared a video of his phone conversation with Kumar, assuring him of the state government's support. "I have called and reassured Kumar, who was attacked in connection with the Nagavarapalya incident. The Karnataka government stands with Kannadigas if they are in trouble; we are also committed to punishing the guilty," he posted.

The IAF Wing Commander, Shiladitya Bose, had earlier posted a video online claiming he was attacked and verbally abused by a group of Kannada-speaking men who followed him on a bike early Monday morning. Police initially arrested Kumar, who works as a team lead at a software company's call centre, but he was released on station bail the following day.

Videos circulating on social media appear to show the officer assaulting Kumar in public, even as his wife attempts to intervene. In a statement, Kumar said he would pursue the case and voiced concern about losing his job due to the incident. — BMB

Mother of all apathy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

children. However, it is a feeding room only in name -- it doesn't have any seating facility and is also filthy. "I do not know when this lounge was last cleaned. I have to think twice even to enter the lounge due to the unhygienic atmosphere. The sinks are dirty too," said Varalakshmi N, a commuter.

One shocking part is that the lounge has no electricity. A few women commuters said they could not use it as there is no electricity. "I do not know why the BMTC authorities have inaugurated it if they cannot maintain it. How do the authorities expect women, especially mothers, to use this lounge that is neither clean nor has any amenities? I demand that the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) restore the electricity supply to this lounge immediately," said Pushpa D, a commuter.

Though the Mother's Lounge has been kept open for now, it is not safe for women to enter it because it

does not have power supply. 'It may not cost so much to restore the electricity supply to the Mother's Lounge. It will be a great help for women if the Mother's Lounge is kept clean and neat. I appeal to the BMTC authorities to maintain Mother's Lounges at all the BMTC Bus Stations for the benefit of women," said a woman commuter.

The BMTC Public Relations Officer assured BM that she would inform the authorities concerned. "Power supply will be restored to the Mother's Lounge at Shivajinagar Bus Station without any delay," the BMTC PRO said.

Home woes haunt RCB as Kohli seeks redemption at Chinnaswamy

As Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) returns to M Chinnaswamy Stadium for their fourth Indian Premier League (IPL) home clash against a struggling Rajasthan Royals (RR) on Thursday, a key concern for them will be the dry run their star batter Virat Kohli has had so far in front of the home crowd.

Despite sitting third on the points table with five wins and three losses, RCB finds itself in contrasting form at home and away. While they have been dominant on the road with five straight victories, their performance at home has been underwhelming—three consecutive losses have raised questions about their adaptability to home conditions. In each of those defeats, their batters failed to set a defendable total.

Much of the spotlight falls on Virat Kohli, whose form at the Chinnaswamy has been far from ideal. In three innings at home this season, he has managed just 30 runs—with scores of 7 (vs Gujarat Titans), 22 (vs Delhi Capitals), and 1 (vs Punjab Kings)—averaging a mere 10.00.

RCB faces Rajasthan Royals at home with concern over Virat Kohli's poor performance at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, contrasting sharply with his stellar away form

In contrast, Virat has been a force to reckon with in away games. He has racked up 292 runs in five matches at a phenomenal average of 146.00, including four half-centuries. His best performance, an unbeaten 73, came during one of those run chases, reinforcing his reputation as a dependable match-winner. Overall, Kohli has amassed 322 runs in eight matches, averaging 64.40 with a strike rate of 140.00. He currently ranks eighth in the race for the Orange Cap.

A look at his recent record paints a clearer picture of the disparity—370 runs at home in his last 10 innings at an average of 41.11, compared to 556 runs away at a staggering 92.66, with seven fifties on the road. As the 'Sea of Red' gears up to cheer their hero, all eyes will be on Virat to see if he can turn his home form around and give the Bengaluru faithful something to celebrate. — BMB

Pahalgam Terror Attack

'My daughter saw her husband being shot dead'

Mom-in-law of victim from Bengaluru reveals horrifying details

A security personnel stands guard next to the site of a tourist attack in Pahalgam; Arms and ammunition, recovered by the Army, being displayed, a day after the terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam, in Baramulla, J&K on Wednesday

Two families from Karnataka were left grief-stricken after the terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday, which claimed 26 lives.

Bharath Bhushan from Bengaluru, who was visiting Pahalgam with his wife and three-year-old son, was shot dead by terrorists. His wife, Sujatha, and their child survived the attack.

According to Vimla, Sujatha's mother and a resident of Mathikere, Bharath was killed in front of his wife and son.

"My daughter called me a short while ago. She said she is safe at an army camp and will go to the hospital to claim her husband's body once her brother reaches Pahalgam. She told me the shooting happened right in front of her," Vimla told PTI Videos.

She added that once Sujatha realised her husband was dead, she picked up his identity cards and fled the scene with her son.

In Shivamogga, Roopa, sister of Manjunath Rao—another victim of the attack—said this was the family's first trip outside the state for a holiday.

According to her, a friend of Manjunath called at around 4.30 pm. to inform her that he had been hospitalised. "But we came to know of his death through the news," she said.

Roopa, who was vacationing at her ancestral home in Thirthahalli, said her brother had travelled to Pahalgam with his wife and son.

"This was their first trip to Kashmir. They had holidays, so they went. They had called their mother to say they were safe and would return on April 24. It's been a week since we last spoke," she said.

The Karnataka government is assisting tourists from the state in returning home. On Wednesday, it released helpline numbers: 080-43344334, 080-43344335, 080-43344336, 080-43344342 for stranded tourists.

Relatives and acquaintances of those currently in Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to share their details through the helplines.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dispatched Labour Minister Santosh Lad to Pahalgam on April 22 to coordinate the return of affected Kannadigas.

"Our minister is already there to help bring back the bodies. The government is doing everything to ensure they return safely. I spoke to Santosh Lad—he said the situation is extremely tense," said Madhu Bangarappa, Karnataka's Primary and Secondary Education Minister.

Manjunath's brother-in-law Ashwin told PTI that the deceased was known for his generosity.

"He was very sociable. If anyone needed help, Manjunath would always step forward. Even when my friend had a health issue, Manjunath didn't hesitate—he contacted the doctor directly and helped. He was always there for all of us. He only ever wished well for others. We still can't believe this happened to him," he added. —PTI

CM calls out intelligence failure

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the Pahalgam terror attack was a "planned one" and claimed that it happened due to the Central government's "intelligence failure".

He also said he had asked the team of officials dispatched to Jammu and Kashmir to hire a special plane to bring back tourists from Karnataka stranded there.

"I feel this attack was a planned one. Whoever has done it, I condemn it. Terror attacks should not happen. Whichever caste or religion they are from, it is still the taking of a life. This is a major terror attack, which the Karnataka government strongly condemns," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

"I feel there is an intelligence failure of the Centre. In the past also the Pulwama terror attack had happened," he claimed.

He said he would not agree to any compromise on security and safety, and stressed that terrorists should be neutralised.

He reiterated his strong condemnation of the Pahalgam attack, in which two tourists from Karnataka were among those killed.

The CM also on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those killed in the terrorist attack.

Earlier in the day,

> I feel this attack was a planned one. This is a major terror attack, which the Karnataka govt condemns

Siddaramaiah said more than 40 Kannadigas who had gone to Kashmir have been stranded due to the terrorist attack, and he instructed the authorities to arrange a special flight to bring all of them safely back to the state.

"More than 40 Kannadigas who had gone on a trip to Kashmir are stranded due to the terrorist attack, and I have instructed the authorities to arrange a special flight to bring all of them safely back to their state. Our government has taken action with the resolve to bring every Kannadiga back to the state safely. No one needs to worry," Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

Urging all those from the state who are now in Jammu and Kashmir to remain calm, he said the Karnataka government has swiftly deployed teams and sent Minister Santosh Lad to assist on the ground. "For any help, please call 112 -- our officers are working with J&K authorities to ensure your safety and immediate support. We are with you. Your well-being is our utmost priority," he added. —PTI

HC to hear caste census pleas today

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has announced that petitions concerning the caste census report will be heard on Thursday. The division bench, led by Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, noted the state government's pending response to the petitioners' concerns.

The petitioners' counsel emphasised that the census falls under central jurisdiction. "The writ was filed in 2015. The caste census was conducted in 2014 under the Backwards Classes Act. Now, the state govt is hurriedly implementing a 10-year-old census," the counsel stated.

The counsel highlighted that the government issued a new quota order in 2023, which faced challenges in the Supreme Court. "In this new quota order, some percentages for some OBCs were increased. When this came up before the SC, the state government gave an undertaking that the earlier regime relating to reservation, notification dated March 30, 2002, will continue to hold till the next date of hearing," it said.

The counsel expressed concerns, stating, "The apprehension is that if the govt accepts this report, it cannot cut into the 2002 quota fixation. But if the cabinet accepts this new report, then the quota will change automatically."

The bench clarified that any government interference with the Supreme Court order would be at their own risk, adding that report acceptance would not supersede the SC order.

"We will hear the matter the day after. Let us apply minds," stated the division bench.

In Mandya, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured on Tuesday that any inaccuracies in the socio-economic and educational survey would be addressed.

Siddaramaiah informed reporters that ministers were asked to provide their views on the report during the previous cabinet meeting. "They are yet to give their feedback. Their opinions will be reviewed, and appropriate decisions will be taken at the next cabinet meeting," he said.

Addressing the BJP's criticisms, the Chief Minister stated that the opposition party lacks "any moral right" to question the caste census. He noted that Jayaprakash Hegde, who finalised the report as the former Karnataka Scheduled Classes Commission chief, belonged to the BJP. "He was appointed by the BJP government," Siddaramaiah added. —BMB

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Focus on curbing child marriages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just as a festival but as a moment of vigilance, Bengaluru is sending out a clear message: Childhood is not for marriage—it's for dreams.

Jagadeesh said, "Under Section 13(4) and 13(5) of the amended law, the District Magistrate is empowered to act as the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer with the authority to take all necessary steps—including the use of minimum force where required—to prevent the solemnisation of child marriages, particularly on high-risk days like Akshaya Tritiya."

He said that despite awareness efforts and sensitisation campaigns, authorities acknowledge that child marriages still occur in some pockets—often due to lack of awareness or failure to notify officials. Jagadeesh has instructed officials at district, taluk, ward, and gram panchayat levels to remain vigilant. All designated child marriage prohibition officers are expected to closely monitor both public and private ceremonies and intervene as needed.

The administration is also urging the public and wedding organisers to be fully informed about the legal consequences of child marriage. "Let us strive to make Bengaluru Urban District free from child marriages," Jagadeesh said in the release. "If anyone becomes aware of an impending or ongoing child marriage, they are encouraged to immediately report it to child helpline numbers 1098 or 112."

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I MEERA CHOUHAN W/o Narendra Pratap R/O Haraluru Bangalore have changed my name from MEERA CHOUHAN to MEERA CHAUHAN And Date Of Birth from (19/11/1970) to (19/05/1971) for all future purposes

I, Pavan Kumar Sethuraman R/o 17, Flat.208, 2nd Flr, S2 Violet Apt, Banjara Lyt, Horamavu Agara Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Pavan Kumar Shastry Affidavit Dt.18/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Babu N R/o 56/1, 2nd main, AK mart, Govindashetty Palya, Konappana Agrahara, Bengaluru 560100 have changed my name to Narayanareddy Babu Reddy (N Babu Reddy) Affidavit Dt.19/04/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Anitha C W/O Dr. M. V. Vijayakumar r/o Maragal village, C. A. Halli post, Bangarpet taluk, kolar(Dt), pin code 563114 have changed my minor son name to M V Yashmith Roy For all purposes Permanently.

I, BINDU SHREE R residing at 19/2, 7th Cross, Mathru Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064. I have changed my name to BINDHU SHREE R. Vide affidavit dated 23/04/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru

I Diganth M V S/o Dr. M.V. Vijayakumar r/o Maragal village, C. A. Halli post, Bangarpet taluk, kolar(Dt) have changed my name to Diganth Roy M V For all purposes.

I Anitha Vijayakumar C W/o Dr. M.V. Vijayakumar r/o Maragal village, C. A. Halli post, Bangarpet taluk, kolar(Dt) have changed my name to Anitha C For all purposes.

I Rahman Khan S/O, Nazeer Ahmed Khan R/o No 178/d Hrtk Manzil 2nd Main 7th Cross Byrappa Layout Govindapura Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Rahman Khan N A K.

I, Kavita Ankalagi W/o Anil Danolli R/o #108,1st Floor, A Block Sai Sri Heritage Kengeri B'lore-560060 have changed my name to Kavita Narendra Ankalagi.

I Syed Eliyaz S/O, Late Syed Ameer Jan R/o Door No 898 , 2nd Cross ,k G Mohalla ,kolar-563101 have changed my name to Syed Ilyaz.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is brought to the notice of the public at large that the properties listed are subject matter of SLP © No 023225 0 -23228 /2023 Pending Before the Hon'ble Supreme Court Between Geetha Sahdevji vs Raja Prem Singh, Sahil Varman, Bijakshari & Ors. wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an interim order dated 02.12.2024 directing the parties not to create any third party interest. It is cautioned to General public not to deal with the listed schedule properties in any manner, to enter into agreement of sale, Development, other Transfer of property modes.

SCHEDULE

1. Bearing No.9, Dharampur House, Jayamahal Extension, Bangalore 560036 measuring around 3 acres bounded on East: by Property of H.M.Maharaja of Gondal; West by: property of H.H.Maharaja of Gondal & Jayamahal main road; North by: private property and South by: property of H.H.Maharaja of Gondal.
2. Property bearing sy.No.15/3-A measuring 27 acres and 38 guntas andproperty bearing Survey.No.18/2 measuring 26 acres situated at Uttarahalli Manavarthi Kaval village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South taluk.
3. Sy. Nos. 19, 18, 20, 17/1, 26, and 94, Hennur Village, kasaba Hobli Bangalore consisting total of 26 acres 12 guntas, bounded on the East by: land belonging to Missionaries; West by: Sarkari Kaluve and portion of Sy. No. 94; North by: Sarkari Kaluve and private lands, and South by: Temple land and Sy. No. 17/2.
4. Sy.No.4 (Block No.3), Kuruburahalli Village, Mysore a total of 2.32 acres, bounded on the North by: Road; South by: land sold to Mrs. M. Seetha Ponnappa; West by: Boraiah's land and Race Course Road, and East by: Road.

Notice: Any person /imposter claiming to have a title to the above properties will be prosecuted, and the documents/ agreements/ MOU would be rendered as null and void.

Sd/-
Somanna K P, Advocate
No.151, 1st main road, MLA layout, Bangalore, Mob- 9113593693
Date: 23.04.2025

HEALTH TIP: In summer, baby skin may not appear dry, but regular moisturising is essential—especially with constant AC use

Sweet potatoes are rich in fibre and beta-carotene, a skin-loving antioxidant that your body converts to vitamin A

FEELING MAD?

New research suggests mindfulness could help manage anger, aggression

There's no shortage of things to feel angry about these days. Whether it's politics, social injustice, climate change or the cost-of-living crisis, the world can feel like a pressure cooker.

Research suggests nearly one-quarter of the world's population feels angry on any given day. While anger is a normal human emotion, if it's intense and poorly managed, it can quickly lead to aggression, and potentially cause harm.

Feeling angry often can also have negative effects on our relationships, as well as our mental and physical health.

So how should you manage feelings of anger to keep them in check? Our new research suggests mindfulness can be an effective tool for regulating anger and reducing aggression.

What is mindfulness?

Mindfulness is the ability to observe and focus on your thoughts, emotions and bodily sensations in the present moment with acceptance and without judgement.

Mindfulness has been practised for thousands of years, most notably in Buddhist traditions. But more recently it has been adapted into secular programmes to support mental health and emotional regulation.

Mindfulness is taught in a variety of ways, including in-person classes, residential retreats and through digital apps. These programmes typically involve guided meditations, and practices that help people become more aware of their thoughts, feelings and surroundings.

Mindfulness is linked to a range of mental health benefits, including reduced anxiety, depression and stress.

Neuroscience research also suggests mindfulness is associated with reduced activity in brain regions linked to emotional reactivity, and greater activity in those involved in self-regulation (the ability to manage our thoughts, emotions and behaviours).

In this way, mindfulness could foster emotional awareness essential for the effective regulation of emotions such as anger. And when people are less overwhelmed by anger, they may be better able to think clearly, reflect on what matters and take meaningful action, rather than reacting impulsively or shutting down.

We reviewed the evidence

To better understand whether mindfulness actually helps with regulating anger and aggression, we conducted a meta-analysis. This is a study that combines the results of many previous studies to look at the overall evidence.

We analysed findings from 118 studies across different populations and countries, including both people who were naturally more mindful and people who were randomly assigned to take part in interventions aimed at increasing mindfulness.

People who were naturally more mindful were those who scored higher on questionnaires measuring traits such as present-moment awareness and non-judgmental thinking. We found these people tended to report less anger and behave less aggressively.

However, mindfulness isn't just something you have or don't have – it's also a skill you can develop. And our results show the benefits of lower anger and aggression extend to people who learn mindfulness skills through practice or training.

We also wanted to know whether mindfulness might work better for certain people or in particular settings. Interestingly, our results suggest these benefits are broadly universal. Practising mindfulness was effective in reducing anger and aggression across different age groups, genders and contexts, including whether people were seeking treatment for mental health or general wellbeing, or not.

Some anger management strategies aren't backed by science

To manage feelings of anger, many people turn to strategies that are not supported by evidence.

Research suggests "letting off steam" while thinking about your anger is not a healthy strategy and may intensify and prolong experiences of anger.

For example, in one experiment, research participants were asked to hit a punching bag while thinking of someone who made them angry. This so-called "cathartic release" made people angrier and more aggressive rather than less so.

Breaking things in rage rooms, while increasingly popular, is similarly not an evidence-based strategy for reducing anger and aggression.

On the other hand, our research shows there's good evidence to support mindfulness as a tool to regulate anger.

Mindfulness may reduce anger and aggression by helping people become more aware of their emotional reactions without immediately acting on them. It can foster a non-judgmental and accepting stance toward difficult emotions such as anger, which may interrupt the cycle whereby anger leads to aggressive behaviour.

Mindfulness is not a magic bullet

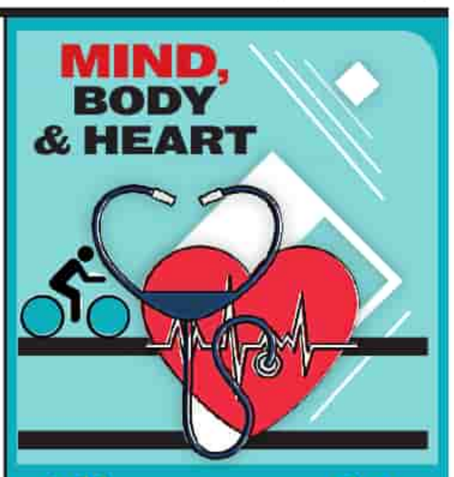
All that said, it's important to keep in mind that mindfulness is not a magic bullet or a quick fix. Like any new skill, mindfulness can be challenging at first, takes time to master, and works best when practised regularly.

It's also important to note mindfulness may not be suitable for everyone – particularly when used as a standalone approach for managing more complex mental health concerns. For ongoing emotional challenges it's always a good idea to seek support from a qualified mental health professional.

However, if you're looking to dial down the impact of daily frustrations, there are plenty of accessible ways to give mindfulness a go. You can get started with just a few minutes per day. Popular apps such as Smiling Mind and Headspace offer short, guided sessions that make it easy to explore mindfulness at your own pace — no prior experience needed.

While mindfulness may not solve the problems that make us angry, our research shows it could help improve how we experience and respond to them.

(Siobhan O'Dean, University of Sydney; Elizabeth Summerell, University of Adelaide; Tom Denson, UNSW Sydney, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Swim-proofing hair

1. Wet hair before swim
Because hair is porous in nature, it absorbs and retains moisture. Wetting hair before entering the pool saturates it and prevents further absorption of chlorine water which will reduce drying and eventual damage.

2. Use swimming cap
A good silicone or latex cap is very important in protecting hair against chlorine. Although the cap doesn't fully protect the hair from getting wet, it acts as a protective layer and avoids direct exposure.

3. Use leave-in conditioner
A leave-in conditioner acts like a barrier that shields the hair from chlorine exposure. Cuticle is the outermost part of the hair shaft which is prone to drying which further leads to breakage. Using a leave-in conditioner helps with excessive drying.

4. Tie hair
For minimal exposure with chlorine water, tie long hair in a tight braid and into a top knot that can be easily covered with the swimming cap. This will reduce tangling and maximise protection.

5. Rinse hair after swimming
Despite the swimming cap and a protective layer of the leave-in conditioner, it's important to wash hair thoroughly to remove any trace of chlorine to remove buildup and maintain hair health.

6. Deep condition
Since chlorine strips hair off of moisture, a once-in-a-week deep conditioning treatment is essential to hydrate and keep hair looking healthy and shiny. A DIY mask can also aid repair chlorine-damaged hair.

7. Avoid heat treatment
Since chlorine exposure dries hair and makes it brittle, it's best to avoid heat treatments on hair post a swim. Pat dry hair with a soft, moisture wicking towel and let it air dry before setting it.

—Femina

GET NOTICED TIMES interac

Introducing S8 Series by Neev Mattress

S8

Great Sleep, Smart Price!

Dual-Side Comfort. 5-Year No-Sag Warranty.
Special Launch Price for
Queen Size at just ₹7900*

Orthopedic Spinecare | No Spring Design | Breathable 350 GSM Belgian Knitted Fabric | Dual Side Usage

Special Launch Price & Exchange Benefit Valid till 27th April 2025
*Queen Size | 4" at ₹9900 (₹7900 under exchange)
Also available in 5" at ₹11500 (₹9500 under exchange)

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Foundation of great sleep

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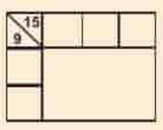
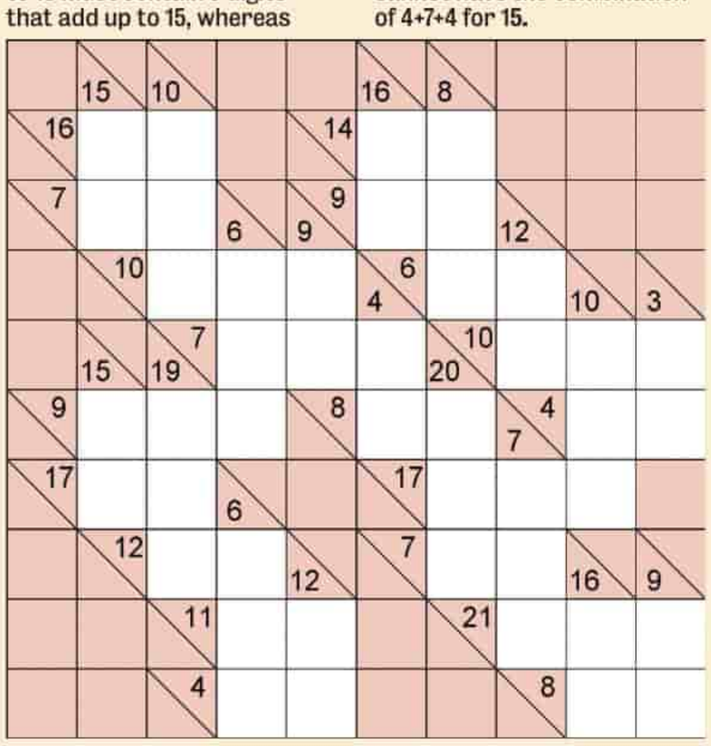
Kakuro

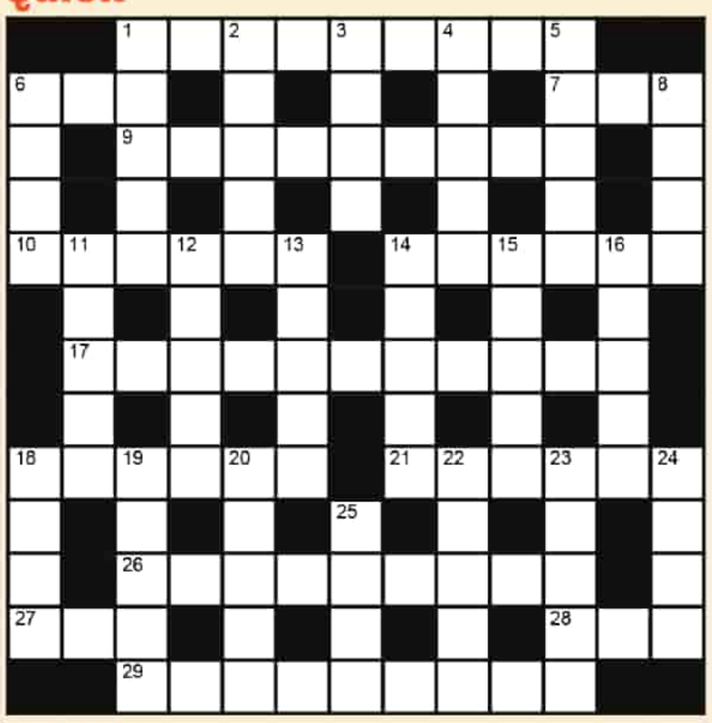
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Had good intentions about or for (5,4)
6 Scottish river (3)
7 Before–"ree" anagram ? (3)
9 Miser (9)
10 Ruffled in temper; slang for annoyed (6)
14 City on the Ganges (6)
17 Pertaining to the science of the mind (11)
18 Summerhouse (6)
21 Positive change? (6)
26 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
27 Simile centre (2,1)
28 Tenth month, in short (3)
29 Dismissing employees because of slack business? (6,3)

DOWN

1 Captain of Argentina's 2022 World Cup winning side (5)
2 On a slant (5)
3 Soybean product (4)
4 Miss Doolittle in My Fair Lady (5)
5 Slacken or diminish, abate (3,2)
6 Fathers (4)
8 Water-jug (4)
11 Seven as a prefix (5)
12 Versification (5)
13 Coarse brute (5)
14 Himachal Pradesh's ___ Valley (5)
15 We experience it from day to day (5)
16 Open sore on the internal or external surface of the body (5)
18 Israel's ___ Strip (4)
19 Arranged in banded areas (5)
20 Loose or bulging out? (5)
22 A snap (5)
23 Made __ __ : employed ? (3,2)
24 Subsequent (4)
25 Seed husks (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS C

EBW DQO'R MTATOM BO EBWL TETI HYTO EBWL UFQJUOQRU-BO UI BWR BX XBDWI.

Linemaro

Isn't your email id beautifulgirl@mydreams.com?

Mindchow

Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them

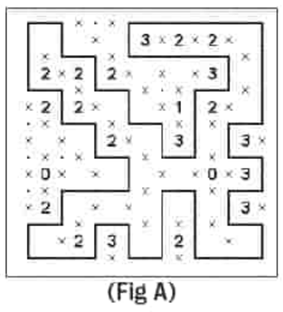
Joke of the day

A waist is a terrible thing to mind

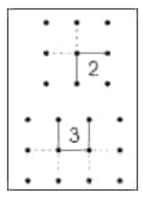
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

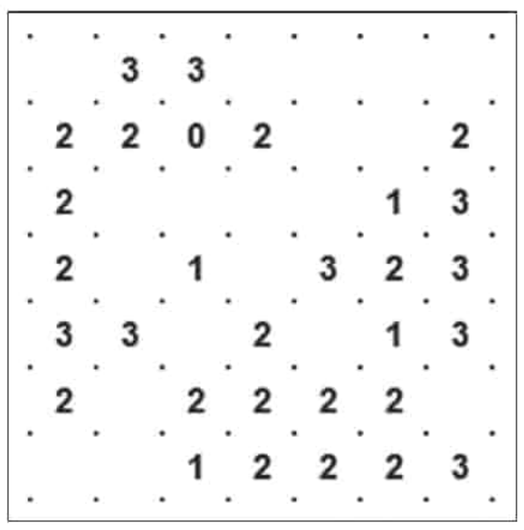


(Fig B) Not Allowed

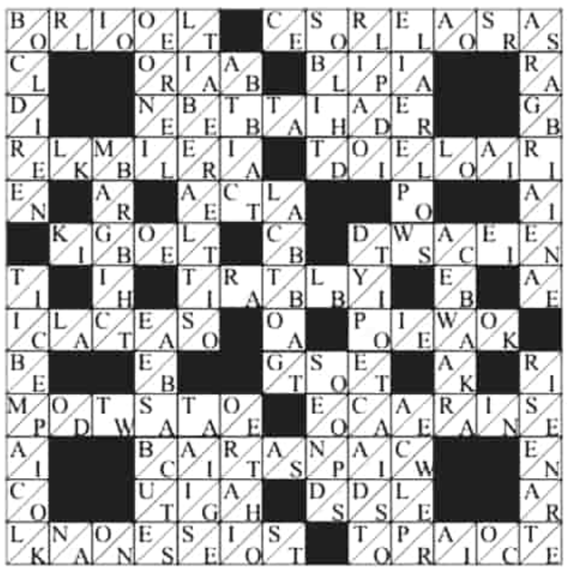
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



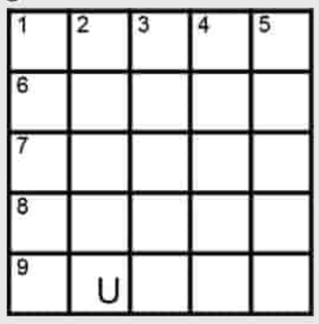
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

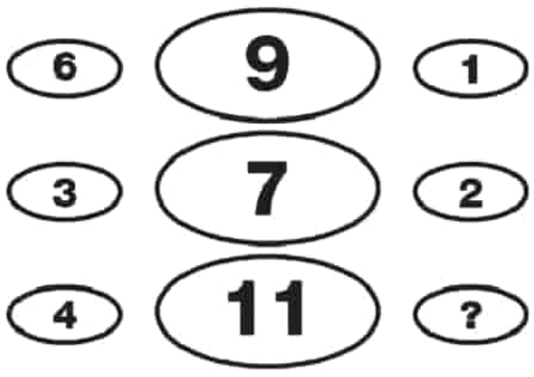
1 Verso; 6 Aired; 7 La rag; 8 Teen C; 9 Ruths

DOWN

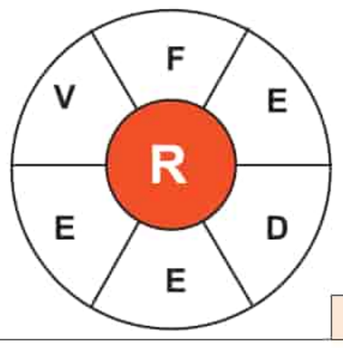
1 Or cha; 2 True V; 3 Greed; 4 Train; 5 Lasse

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			4		7		2	
1		7		5				6
	5			1		9		
	8	1	7			3		2
9		3			1	7	8	
		4		9			6	
3				2		5		1
	6		1		5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 3

1 6 7 9

Medium

= 15

4 4 8 9

Hard

= 16

1 6 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

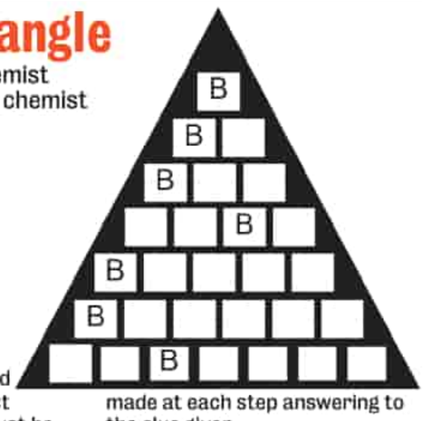
Differences: 1. Cap is reversed. 2. Bag is different. 3. Roof is longer. 4. Wall is not as long. 5. Boy is turned around. 6. Window is different.

Riddler

Solve this math problem in your head. Divide 30 by a half, then add 10.

Alpha triangle

1 Boron for the chemist
2 Beryllium for the chemist
3 Spelling event
4 German river
5 Run counter to
6 Conviction
7 Feverish



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

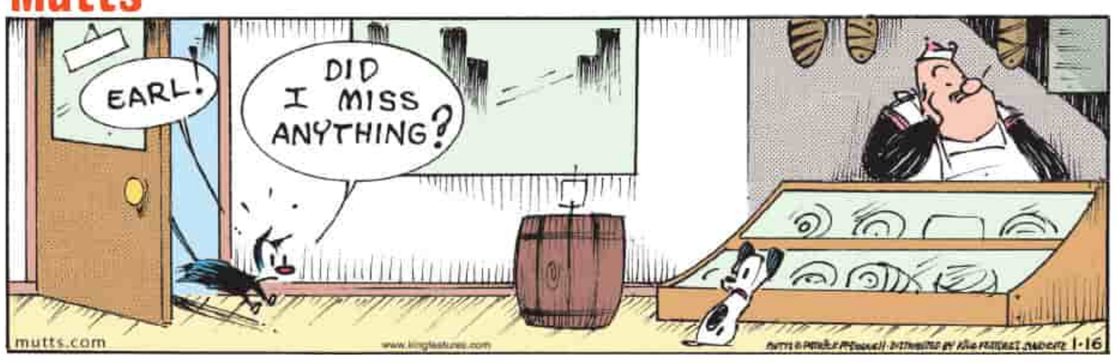
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Mood swings and low energy may affect your routine today. Be cautious with your health. Avoid rash driving and adventurous activities. Overspending on unnecessary things could impact your finances—try to hold back on impulse purchases.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel disconnected from your responsibilities today and tempted to spend on things you don't need, which might bring negative energy into your home or workplace. Stay alert—rivals could try to undermine you. Double-check any documents before signing.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessings from elders bring a sense of happiness. Investments may start to show profits, and financial stability improves. You might also start planning for your children's future. Health issues related to throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved. Enjoy some comfort and good food at home.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You're feeling patient and focused today, thanks to the blessings of your elders. Parental health improves, and you may spend quality time with them. Meeting an influential person could benefit your career. Romance and domestic harmony are highlighted.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You're feeling spiritually uplifted today. Helping those in need and donating to a cause will bring emotional satisfaction. Your good deeds may pave the way for success in difficult projects. A strong sense of divine support surrounds you. Students may find joy in deep learning or research.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Hidden fears might cloud your mood today. You could struggle with trust and feel mentally uneasy. Meditation or prayer can help you regain balance. By evening, elder's blessings may lift your spirits and help you find clarity.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You're in high spirits, spreading joy to those around you. Domestic life feels harmonious, and romance is strong. Family members may support you in making key professional decisions. New business ventures or partnerships could be on the horizon.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Positive vibes help you stay patient and productive today. Your work performance is strong and may lead to rewards or incentives. Health issues in the family may improve. Job seekers are likely to receive good news. Romantic connections feel smooth and joyful.

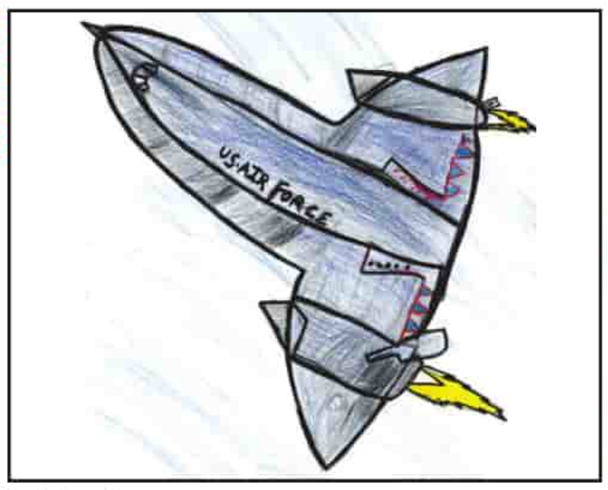
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Mixed emotions might surround you today. Don't place high expectations on others—it might lead to disappointment. Use this time for self-reflection and growth. With deeper self-understanding, you'll feel ready to take on new challenges.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may think about relocating or changing something significant today, but it's better to delay any major moves for now. Business investments should also be postponed. By evening, the situation should improve. Guidance from a trusted elder could help you regain control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A short business trip could be fruitful today. Recognition for your recent work is likely, and your reputation will grow. Positive news from siblings may lift your spirits. Job seekers aiming for management roles may find success. Singles may enter into a new relationship or engagement.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by Jupiter, your wisdom helps you handle challenges effectively today. You might offer guidance to friends or family, increasing your respect and influence. However, some minor differences with your spouse may arise—approach them with patience to maintain peace at home.

KIDZONE



Yash, Bengaluru

Pragna, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
144-(13)8-100=
40-100=
-60

RIDDLER
70. It's not 25 because dividing by a half is the same as multiplying by 2.

FAST FIVE

O	V	E	R	S
A	R	G	A	L
C	T	E	N	E
A	R	D	I	A
H	U	R	T	S

QUOTE UNCODE
You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

STRIKE OUT

O	R	I	E	L	■	C	O	L	L	A	R	S	■	■
L	■	R	I	A	■	L	I	I	■	A	■	■	■	■
D	■	E	B	B	T	I	D	E	■	B	■	■	■	■
E	L	M	I	R	A	■	D	O	L	L	A	R	■	■
N	■	A	■	E	T	A	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	■
I	■	I	G	E	T	■	B	■	T	W	A	I	N	■
C	A	C	A	O	■	O	■	P	E	A	K	■	■	■
E	■	■	B	■	■	T	O	E	■	K	■	I	■	■
P	O	T	A	T	O	■	O	C	E	A	N	S	■	■
A	■	C	A	T	S	P	A	W	■	■	■	E	■	■
C	■	■	U	G	H	■	S	■	S	E	■	■	■	■
K	N	O	S	S	O	S	■	T	R	A	C	E	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
5. In each row, add together the left and right hand numbers, then add 2 to give the central value.

BULL'S EYE
deer, defer, ever, feeder, fever, FEVERED, free, freed, reed, reef, reefed, veer, veered

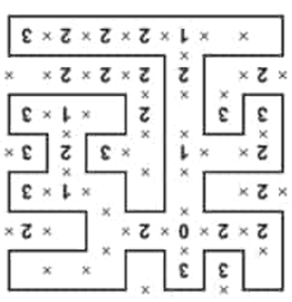
SUDOKU

2	6	9	1	7	5	4	3	8
3	7	8	6	2	4	5	9	1
5	1	4	3	9	8	2	6	7
9	2	3	5	6	1	7	8	4
7	4	5	2	8	3	6	1	9
6	8	1	7	4	9	3	5	2
4	5	2	8	1	6	9	7	3
1	3	7	9	5	2	8	4	6
8	9	6	4	3	7	1	2	5

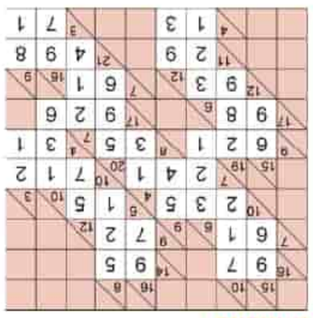
ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Be, Bee, Elbe, Belle, Bellet, Febrile.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 9 - 1 + 6 = 3
Medium
8 / 4 + 4 + 9 = 15
Hard
7 + 6 + 3 x 1 = 16

LOOP



KAKURO



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'Enola Holmes 3' in works — Netflix has announced the production of 'Enola Holmes 3', the latest instalment in the film franchise based on Nancy Springer's book series. Millie Bobby Brown, Helena Bonham Carter and Henry Cavill will return

BangaloreMirror | 12
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Mouni reveals her glow-up secrets

Mouni Roy recently walked the ramp at a fashion event, turning heads with her striking look and a large maang teeka that covered her forehead. This subtle fashion choice sparked renewed speculation about alleged cosmetic procedures, a topic she has frequently been associated with. When asked about it during a quick interaction as reported by Aajtak, Mouni gracefully steered away from the discussion, stating that it was a conversation for a future interview and assuring that she would eventually speak on the matter. She indicated that she would address the topic in due course. Despite the surrounding chatter, her composed presence stood out at the event.

From screen confidence to ramp jitters

The actress, known for her roles in 'Naagin', 'Brahmastra', and now a ghost in her upcoming film, admitted that walking the ramp still makes her anxious. She revealed that while she is confident when it comes to acting and dancing, ramp walks tend to make her nervous. Nevertheless, she mentioned that nerves can be channeled positively and emphasised her love for the stage. On the professional front, though she is often seen in mythical or supernatural roles, Mouni Roy expressed that she does not feel typecast. She explained that she selects her projects based on the strength of the story, and if a script does not move or challenge her, she chooses not to pursue it. —ETimes

Pan-India actor

Janhvi appears to be all set to make her Tamil film debut

Janhvi Kapoor has often voiced her wish to carry forward her mother Sridevi's iconic legacy in Tamil cinema. That ambition seems to be taking shape, as talks surrounding her Tamil debut with filmmaker Pa Ranjith have been gaining momentum.

Industry insiders say the project in discussion is a powerful, woman-centric web series produced by Ranjith's Neelam Productions. If finalized, the series will not only mark her Tamil debut but also introduce her to the world of streaming content — a dual milestone in her career.

According to Mid Day, Janhvi Kapoor has been in conversation with Pa Ranjith for over three months. The series will be a socially driven narrative and right in line with Ranjith's storytelling style. Although scheduling hurdles delayed formal commitments, the filmmaker and actor are said to be on the same page creatively. The series reportedly explores oppression, inequality, and empowerment, offering Janhvi Kapoor a chance to portray a role with depth and impact.

> Project in discussion is a powerful, woman-centric web series by filmmaker Pa Ranjith

While the Tamil project is taking shape, Janhvi Kapoor is currently wrapping up 'Param Sundari,' a romantic comedy directed by Tushar Jalota and co-starring Sidharth Malhotra. The film, packed with light-hearted moments, is expected to complete filming by early June. Janhvi is said to be eager to dive into a contrasting, more intense project once Param Sundari is done. The shoot is expected to begin in July. Post her current film, Janhvi is scheduled to fly to Chennai and begin preparations for her role in the upcoming web series. —ETimes

Twinning time

Chandni Bhabhda, known for her spot-on Alia Bhatt impressions, has wowed the internet again—this time by teaming up with Alia herself! A lawyer and mimicry artist, Chandni rose to fame mimicking Alia's voice and expressions, especially her iconic "Shiva" line. Now, the two finally shared screen space in a fun new video.Alia and Chandni's Hilarious Makeup Collab In a fun video made for a brand Alia Bhatt promotes, she teams up with Chandni Bhabhda for a playful Get Ready With Me session. Chandni copies everything Alia says and does, from

applying foundation with her hands to using lipstick the same quirky way Alia does—by putting her mouth to it. Alia jokingly calls it 'weird' and tells Chandni to "dab it off," playfully correcting her instead of saying the famous "wipe it off."

In the end, Alia bursts into laughter as Chandni nails her impression once again. Fans are loving this surprise collab and are praising Alia for being such a sport, even drawing comparisons to her fun vibe in the old AIB video.

While one user wrote, 'She is more alia than alia herself.. I follow her and I love when she mimics alia', another one added, 'Why did Alia suddenly behave like Kareena when she said "Abhi lipstick kaise lagate ho, lets see that'. A user also commented, 'She's become a mix of Bebo n Deepu.

Upcoming projects

Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia will soon be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love & War' along with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. — ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Sequel is ready

Naanu Matthu Gunda, a movie made on the bond between a dog and its owner, was released two-and-half years ago. It was a huge success at the box office. Shivaraj KR Pete played the lead and Raghu Hassan directed the movie. Now, its sequel – Naanu Matthu Gunda-2, is ready for release. Shailaja Kiragandur, the better half of well-known producer Vijay Kiragandur, unveiled the teaser of the film. "Audiences connected well with Naanu Matthu Gunda. I hope the sequel is a big success," she said.

Rakesh Adiga plays the lead in the sequel while Rachana Inder is paired opposite him. Thanking Shailaja Kiragandur for unveiling the teaser, Raghu Hassan said that Rakesh Adiga plays the son of Shivaraj KR Pete in the sequel. "The first copy of the movie is ready. The script for the sequel was ready during the shooting of Naanu Matthu Gunda. The movie has all the ingredients to entertain the audiences. We are planning to apply for the censor certificate. The movie was shot at Ooty, Shivamogga, Thirthahalli, and Balehonnur," he said.

The movie is expected to arrive in theaters in May. Simba, the son of Simbu, plays a pivotal role in the movie. Simbu, the dog who played the main role in Naanu Matthu Gunda, passed away days after shooting for the sequel began.

Title song unveiled

Navarasan of Eagle Media Creations, who has organised over 1,800 promotional events of movies and handled the megaphone for Vaira, Psycho Shankara, and Damayanthi, is bankrolling the film Suthradaari, directed by Kiran Kumar. It is Kumar's maiden movie as a director.

The movie's title song was unveiled on Sunday. Producers Chetan Gowda, Jagadeesh Gowda, Rajesh, and Gajendra were present on the occasion.

Chandan Shetty, a rapper-turned-actor, plays the lead in the movie. The title song of the movie was sung by Chandan Shetty and it is released through A2 Music. Navarasan said the movie has turned out well. "The title song of the movie is

very good and it will become popular. We have decided to release the movie on May 9," Navarasan said.

Chandan Shetty said his father wanted him to become a hero in Sandalwood. "I am happy to realise my father's dream. My maiden movie as a hero is scheduled for release on May 9. All of you have encouraged and supported me as a singer. I want all of you to support me as an actor too," Shetty said.